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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 :
G01F 1/76, 1/78, 25/00

A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/57139

(43) International Publication Date: 28 September 2000 (28.09.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/00254

(22) International Filing Date: 24 March 2000 (24.03.00)

(30) Priority Data:
21347/99 24 March 1999 (24.03.99) AU

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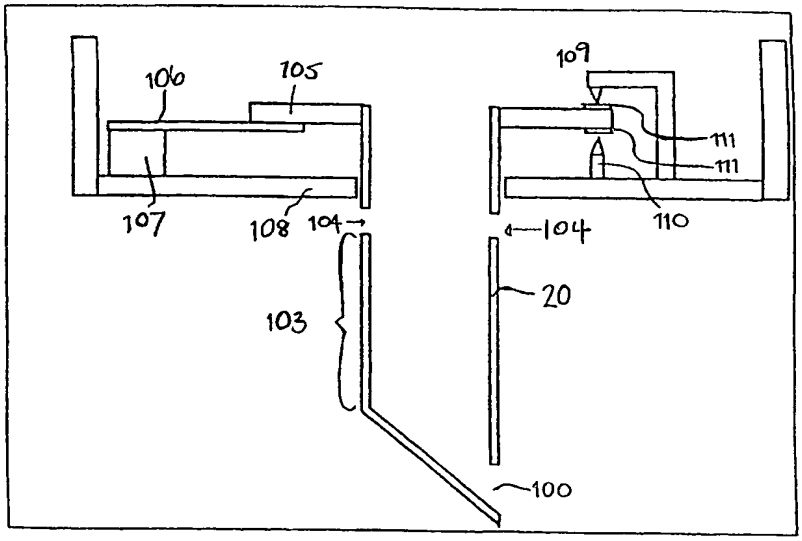
(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: MEASURING AND CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF FLOWABLE MATERIALS



(57) Abstract

A method of determining an inlet flow rate (F_{inlet}) of a flowable material including passing an inlet stream of flowable material through a chamber (20) having an outlet aperture (100); measuring a first rate of change of quantity of material in the chamber (20) when the material is entering at said inlet flow rate; measuring a second rate of change of quantity of material in the chamber (20) when no material is entering the chamber (20); and calculating the inlet flow rate (F_{inlet}) from said first and second rates, wherein both rate measurements are made while the whole of the outlet aperture (100) of the chamber (20) is occupied by the flowable material.